



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFIED

ASSISTANT HEALTH PHYSICIST
ASSOCIATE HEALTH PHYSICIST

Class No. 004757
Class No. 004750

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

To conduct inspections and investigations of radiological facilities, radioactive materials, and X-ray equipment to determine safe use and ensure compliance with radiation control regulations; and to perform related work as required.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a technical class series allocated only to the Department of Environmental Health. Positions in these classes are responsible for ensuring that all medical, dental, research, and industrial facilities using radiation equipment and handling radioactive materials are in compliance with federal and state radiation control regulations, and for providing technical advice on the use and safety practices required for radiation producing equipment and materials.

Assistant Health Physicist:

This is the journey level in the Health Physicist class series. Under general supervision, incumbents are responsible for inspecting and surveying radiological facilities and equipment.

Associate Health Physicist:

This is the advanced journey/lead level in this class series. Under direction, Associate Health Physicist is responsible for the most difficult inspection and investigation work. Incumbents in this class provide technical guidance, training and may lead the work of Assistant Health Physicists. This class receives direction from the Senior Health Physicist, which is responsible for the management of the Radiation Control Program.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of functions listed in the class specification are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class. Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position.

Essential Functions:

1. Conducts on-site inspections of private and public facilities authorized to use various types of radiation producing equipment/machines located throughout the county.
2. Conducts routine investigations, and surveys the use of radiological equipment.
3. Determines compliance with rules and regulations governing radiation use.
4. Conducts basic hazardous waste inspections associated with radiological equipment.
5. Prepares and issues correction notices when violations exist.
6. Conducts follow up inspections to ensure correction of violations.
7. Instructs and advises physicians and operators in radiation safety and radiology technology.
8. Ascertains that all radiologic technologists and other users of radiologic equipment are certified.
9. Investigates accidental exposure incidents, overexposures and complaints.
10. Writes reports and performs related inspections of radiological facilities.
11. Provides responsive, high quality service to County employees, representatives of outside agencies and members of the public by providing accurate, complete and up-to-date information, in a courteous, efficient and timely manner.

Associate Health Physicist

Essential Functions:

All of the functions listed above and

1. Conducts the more difficult/complex inspections and investigations.
2. Surveys the more complex radiological equipment in research/industrial facilities.
3. Evaluates radiation shielding plans and specifications.
4. Provides training, consultation and assistance to professional and technical staff in public/private facilities in health physics and radiologic technology.
5. Conducts chemical waste inspections of X-ray film processing.
6. Provides technical guidance and assistance to Assistant Health Physicists.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Principles, techniques, and practices of radiation protection and health physics.
- Theory and practical design of shielding for protection against radiation.
- Radiation control laws and regulations.
- Radiation measurement methods and procedures.
- Operating standards required for a variety of radiologic equipment.
- Accurate measurement of doses of radiation.
- The biological effects of ionizing radiation on people and the environment.
- Current clinical techniques in radiologic technology.
- Diagnostic, therapeutic, research and industrial X-ray equipment design and use.
- Film processing variables and effects.
- County customer service objectives and strategies.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Interpret rules and regulations governing the proper use of radiologic equipment.
- Survey and inspect radiation-producing machines.
- Demonstrate the proper use of radiologic equipment.
- Plan, execute and resolve inspection and investigation assignments with minimal supervision.
- Select and use the appropriate radiation detection equipment for assignments.
- Perform mathematical computations.
- Read and understand equipment manuals, diagrams, and schematics.
- Conduct hazardous waste inspections associated with radiologic equipment.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relations with those contacted in the course of work.
- Establish effective working relationships with management, employees, employee representatives and the public representing diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Treat County employees, representatives of outside agencies and members of the public with courtesy and respect.
- Exercise appropriate judgment in answering questions and releasing information; analyze and project consequences of decisions and/or recommendations.

Associate Health Physicist (in addition to the above):

- Conduct quality assurance inspections of facilities and machines.
- Evaluate radiation shielding plans and specifications.
- Instruct and provide technical guidance to physicians and operators in radiation equipment safety and radiologic technology.
- Provide training and assistance to the Assistant Health Physicists.

■ EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Education, training, and/or experience that demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Assistant Health Physicist:

1. One (1) year of experience in California state service performing the duties of a Junior Health Physicist; OR,
2. Five (5) years of experience in a medical radiology department, hospital, public health or county contract agency operating or surveying the use of radiological equipment, providing advice on safe practices in radiation to ensure compliance with rules and regulations governing radiation use; OR
3. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in radiologic health, radiologic science, health physics, engineering, mathematics, physical science, life science or a closely related field; AND, two (2) years of professional experience in health physics or a closely related field.

Associate Health Physicist:

1. One (1) year as a Assistant Health Physicist in the County of San Diego; OR,
2. Six (6) years of experience in a medical radiology department, hospital, public health or county contract agency operating or surveying the use of radiological equipment, providing advice on safe practices in radiation to ensure compliance with rules and regulations governing radiation use; OR,
3. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in radiologic health, radiologic science, health physics, engineering, mathematics, physical science, life science or a closely related field; AND, three (3) years of professional experience in health physics or a closely related field.

■ ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the classification. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job, on a case-by-case basis.

Maintain physical condition appropriate to the performance of assigned duties and responsibilities which, may include the following: Frequent: sitting and walking. Occasional: standing, bending of the neck and waist, squatting, kneeling, twisting neck and waist, repetitive use of hands, simple grasping left and right hand, fine manipulation left and right hand, reaching above and below shoulder level, and lifting objects weighing up to 25 pounds. Operate assigned or personal motor vehicle.

■ SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS

License

A valid California class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment, or the ability to arrange necessary and timely transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own vehicle.

Certification/Registration

Possession of a Certified Radiologic Technologist (CRT) certificate from the California State Department of Health Services, or ARRT certificate from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists or a valid certificate in MQSA mammography inspection issued by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Working Conditions

Works around equipment and machinery during inspections of industrial sites. Walks on uneven ground. May be exposed to biohazards or ionizing radiation at inspection sites. Subject to weekend work, standby and emergency call back.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates will be subject to a background investigation.

Probationary Period

Assistant Health Physicist: Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of six (6) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).

Associate Health Physicist: Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of 12 months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5)

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